Message Text

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 5277

S/NM FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE
DEA FOR ACTING ADMINISTRATOR DOGIN

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GOM ON 1975-76 ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

SUMMARY: ON JUNE 12, USG REPS PARTICIPATED IN FIVE-HOUR
TALKS WITH GOM TEAM. ON USG SIDE WERE COHEN (S/NM); KEANE (ARA/
MEX); BERNAL, HALL (OINC); SCHLESINGER (DEA, WASH.); HEATH,
KUYKENDALL (DEA, MEXICO); AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR
ALBERTI. MEXICAN SIDE, HEADED BY DEPUTY AG ROSALES MIRANDA,
ALSO INCLUDED LIC. ALBA LEYVA (SECOND DEPUTY AG); GEN. ARRIAGA
(DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL POLICE); LIC. MANCERA (CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR);
LIC. CARCAMO (COORDINATOR IN NORTHWEST); LIC. LOPEZ (CHIEF,
OFFICE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL); CAPT. VIDEZ (CHIEF, AEROSERVICES);
AND LT. PLATA (CHIEF OF MAINTENANCE, AEROSERVICES). ISSUES CONTAINED
IN PROPOSED AGENDA WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH, AND AGREEMENTS
THEREON WERE AS OUTLINED BELOW, IN TEXT OF DRAFT MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING; END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO CONCERNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE 1975-76 ERADICATION CAMPAIGN.

AS A RESULT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA'S DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON IN MAY 1975 WITH OFFICIALS OF THE

U.S. GOVERNMENT, CONVERSATIONS WERE HELD ON JUNE 12, 1975, BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, HEADED BY DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL LIC. MANUEL ROSALES MIRANDA AND OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, BOTH FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION. BASED ON THESE TWO MEETINGS THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS WERE REACHED:

- 1. IT IS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MEXICO'S EXPRESSED OBJECTIVE TO INTENSIFY THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IN THE NORTHWESTERN AND SOUTHWESTERN ZONES.
- 2. BECAUSE THE GROWING CYCLES ARE SIMILAR IN BOTH ZONES, THE CAMPAIGNS WILL HAVE TO BE SIMULTANEOUS IN NATURE, THEREBY RENDERING UNFEASIBLE THE TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT BETWEEN THE TWO ZONES.
- 3. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THROUGH AN IMPROVED OPERATIONS PLAN RESULTING IN THE MORE FREQUENT MOVEMENT OF TROOPS, BY NINE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE BELL 212 HELICOPTERS PLUS FOUR TO BE PROVIDED, THE DESTRUCTION RATE COULD BE INCREASED SHARPLY, ENABLING MORE THOROUGH DESTRUCTION IN A SHORTER PERIOD OF TIME.
- 4. IN ORDER TO MOUNT FULLY EFFECTIVE INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGNS IN BOTH THE NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST ZONES, A SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER COMMITMENT OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE REQUIRED. IN THE 1975 CAMPAIGN, ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIELDS DESTROYED WAS MOST IMPRESSIVE, THE TIME AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE DID NOT PERMIT THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL THE FIELDS BEFORE THEY WERE HARVESTED. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 80 COLUMNS OF TROOPS WOULD BE REQUIRED IN EACH OF THE TWO ZONES. IN ORDER TO DO THE ERADICATION JOB THOROUGHLY AND IN TIME TO PREVENT THE HARVEST OF ANY OF THE CROP. TO SUPPORT THE INCREASED TROOP REQUIREMENTS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AN AVERAGE OF ONE UTILITY (BELL 212) HELICOPTER WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT 10 COLUMNS OF TROOPS. THEREFORE, ALLOWING FOR SPARE HELICOPTERS A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 20 BELL 212 HELICOPTERS WOULD BE REQUIRED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT BECAUSE OF PROCUREMENT LEAD TIMES, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS OPTIMUM NUMBER IN TIME FOR THE FORTHCOMING CAMPAIGN, BUT WE WOULD HOPE TO AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

5. IT IS REALIZED THAT THE POPPY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IS ESSENTIALLY A YEAR-ROUND OPERATION, WITH INTENSIFIED PHASES BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY IN SEPTEMBER AND ENDING IN MAY. IT IS FURTHER REALIZED THAT AT THIS TIME IT IS DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF POPPY FIELDS NATION-WIDE TO BE DESTROYED AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION. HOWEVER, A DISCUSSION OF THE POPPY GROWING SEASON ELICITED THE CONSENSUS THAT THE NEXT INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN SHOULD

BEGIN SUBSTANTIALLY EARLIER THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, IT IS DESIRABLE THAT A DEFINITE STARTING DATE IN BOTH THE NORTHWESTERN AND SOUTHWESTERN ZONES BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT ALSO IS IMPERATIVE TO DESIGNATE A BASE FOR SOUTHWESTERN ZONE HEADQUARTERS.

6. JOINT MEXICAN AND AMERICAN TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS WILL BE DESIGNATED TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS AT THE WORKING LEVEL ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1976 CAMPAIGN IN THE FOLLOWING TECHNICAL AREAS: REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS, AVIATION OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, MANPOWER, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

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